

application (to the State of Florida) for Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act; certification of state lands, easements, and rights of way; and determination of Coastal Zone Management Act consistency.

**Agency Role:** As the non-Federal sponsor and leading local expert; DERM will provide extensive information and assistance on the resources to be impacted, mitigation measures, and alternatives.

**DEIS Preparation:** It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public on or about October 9, 1998. We plan to post the DEIS on the environmental documents page of the Jacksonville District's web site. (<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm>.)

Dated: August 7, 1998.

**George M. Strain,**

*Acting Chief, Planning Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-22470 Filed 8-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Notice of Availability of Invention for Licensing; Government-Owned Invention

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The following invention is assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Navy and is available for licensing by the Department of the Navy: U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 08/940,043 entitled "Fiber-Reinforced Phthalonitrile Composite Cured With Low-Reactivity Aromatic Amine Curing Agent," Navy Case No. 78246.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of this patent application should be directed to the Office of Naval Research, ONR 00CC, Ballston Tower One, 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22217-5660, and must include the Navy Case number.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. R.J. Erickson, Staff Patent Attorney, Office of Naval Research, ONR 00CC, Ballston Tower One, 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22217-5660, telephone (703) 696-4001.

(Authority: 35 U.S.C. 207, 37 CFR Part 404.)

Dated: August 12, 1998.

**Michael I. Quinn,**

*Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-22473 Filed 8-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Pit Disassembly and Conversion Demonstration Environmental Assessment and Research and Development Activities

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Finding of no significant impact.

**SUMMARY:** An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess potential environmental impacts associated with a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposed action to test an integrated pit disassembly and conversion process on a relatively small sample of pits and plutonium metal at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico. The proposed action would involve performing work in a series of interconnected gloveboxes using remote handling, automation, and computerized control systems to minimize operator exposure where possible, increase safety, and minimize the amount of waste generated by the process. Based on the analysis in the EA and considering comments received, DOE has determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required. The EA also discusses other on-going research and development activities, which have already been reviewed pursuant to NEPA, and which concern pit disassembly and conversion, potential mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication, and immobilization of surplus plutonium.

#### ADDRESSES AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

Single copies of the EA and further information concerning the proposed action are available from: Mr. G. Bert Stevenson, NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition (MD-4), U.S. Department of Energy, PO Box 23786, Washington, DC 20026-3786, (202) 586-5368.

For further information regarding the DOE NEPA Process, contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW,

Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Purpose and Need

DOE needs to develop the capability to disassemble surplus plutonium pits which are sealed in metallic shells. (A pit is a nuclear weapons component.) In order to develop this capability in a timely manner, safety and operational design information must be obtained from the actual disassembly of up to 250 representative pits and the conversion of the recovered plutonium to plutonium metal ingots and plutonium dioxide. The resulting experience would be used to supplement information developed to support the design of a full-scale disassembly and conversion facility should DOE decide to construct such a facility in the *Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement* (SPD EIS) Record of Decision (ROD).

##### Background

DOE is implementing a long-term program to provide safe and secure storage of weapons-usable fissile materials, and to allow for the timely disposition of weapons-usable plutonium declared surplus to national security needs. The program's goal is to ensure that there is a high standard of security and accounting of these materials while in storage, and that the surplus plutonium is never used again in nuclear weapons.

In January 1997, DOE issued the ROD for the *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Storage and Disposition Final PEIS)*. In the PEIS ROD, DOE announced a decision to pursue a strategy to dispose of surplus United States plutonium that allows for two separate approaches: (1) Immobilization of some (and potentially all) of the surplus plutonium; and (2) using some of the surplus plutonium as MOX fuel in existing commercial reactors. In that decision, DOE explained that the timing and extent to which either or both of the disposition approaches are ultimately deployed would depend in part on the follow-on SPD EIS, as well as technology development and research.

##### Proposed Action

In order to meet the purpose and need for this action, DOE proposes that an integrated Pit Disassembly and Conversion Demonstration take place at LANL's Plutonium Facility-4 in Technical Area-55. No new facilities are needed to support this demonstration; however, minor internal modifications